

Date August 1, 2010
Series ***God's empowering presence***
Title The Baptism with the Spirit & Speaking in Tongues
Text 1 Corinthians 14:18
Speaker Pastor David Sell

1. “What is the baptism with the Spirit?”

- In Mt. 3:11 John the Baptist said, *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*
- Later in Acts 1:8 Jesus said, *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- Before Jesus launched the disciples on their call to evangelize the world, He made sure they were empowered by the baptism with the Spirit. He knew they would need this to get the job done.

2. Ten days later, in Acts 2:4 the Holy Spirit fell upon those in the Upper Room, and they were all filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues.

- This experience with slight variation then reoccurred four other times in the Book of Acts—Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 19.

3. The cornerstone scripture introducing this experience is Acts 2:4, which says, *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

- We first note that they were “filled with the Spirit.”
- What does this mean?

4. The Holy Spirit already dwells within every believer.

- Rom. 8:9 says, *“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”*
- If you are an authentic believer, you already have the Holy Spirit within you.

5. The fact that you already have the Holy Spirit within you is very significant.

- Many people wonder if they are spiritual enough, or mature enough to receive the baptism with the Spirit.
- They say, “What if I’m holding on to some deep issue that I have never let go of, does this disqualify me in any way?”
- No. The empowerment of the Holy Spirit is provided for the purpose of helping us to become better Christians.
- When the early church experienced this, they received it immediately—right after they accepted Christ--so that they would have all of God’s strength to overcome their inadequacies.

To be baptized in the Spirit doesn’t mean we are more spiritual; it only means we have a greater measure of the Spirit to help us become more spiritual.

6. To help illustrate this, Prov. 20:27 reads, “*The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord.*”

- The human spirit is likened unto a candle; in Bible days candles were not made of wax, but were open clay vessels that contained oil.
- Every house was filled with these, which was how they lit their homes.

7. When we become a Christian God gives us a measure of His Holy Spirit to dwell within our human spirit.

- 2 Tim. 4:22 says, “*The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*”

8. When we are baptized with the Spirit, we receive an additional measure of the Spirit, which “fills us with the Spirit.”

That’s why in Acts 2:4 it says, “They were filled with the Holy Spirit.”

- The final step is the lighting of the wick, the flame being symbolic of the tongues of fire.

9. Acts 2:4 reads, “*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance*” (Acts 2:4).

- In addition to being filled with the Spirit, those who received this gift also spoke in tongues.
- What does it mean to speak in tongues?

10. It simply means that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray in a prayer language that goes beyond our own natural language.

- Even though we don't understand that language, it is understood by God and angels.

1 Cor. 13:1 reads, *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels...”*

- To describe the baptism with the Spirit in a single sentence we might say, **“The baptism with the Spirit is a second experience after salvation, which results in being filled with the Spirit and the ability to speak in a heavenly prayer language called “tongues.”**

11. “Is the baptism with the Spirit a gift?”

- Acts 2:38 reads, *“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2:38).
- Acts 10:45 adds: *“And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also”* (Acts 10:45).
- Acts 11:17 puts it this way: *“If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?”* (Acts 11:17).
- People naturally wonder, if it a gift, am I eligible to receive this gift?

12. Salvation is also called a gift.

- Eph. 2:8 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God”* (Eph. 2:8).

- Were you eligible to receive salvation? If so, you are also eligible to receive the baptism with the Spirit.
- In both cases, none of us deserve this gift, but it is given to those who choose to believe and pursue after the gift.

13. Who is this gift for?

Acts 2:38-39 reads, ***“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”***

- The gift is promised to you, your children, and to all who are afar off (that’s us), as many as the Lord will call.
- Rom. 8:30 implies that every believer is called: ***“whom He called, He also justified.”***

There are some who believe the gift of speaking in tongues is no longer for today. They quote 1 Cor. 13 which says that “when that which is perfect is come then tongues will be done away with.” They also say that “that which is perfect” refers to the completion of the Bible which happened after the church finally decided upon the complete canon of Scripture. The context of the surrounding verses (vss. 10-12) lean more toward “that which is perfect” being the second coming of Christ.

14. Our only real responsibility in this is to overcome our apprehensions and pursue after what God wants to give us.

- For many people fear is the primary obstacle that holds them back from receiving this gift, simply because speaking in tongues brings up some “unknowns.”
- *“If I speak in tongues will I become out of control?”* (No!)
- *“Will I be looked upon differently if I speak in tongues?”* (No!)
- *“Will I be looked upon differently if I don’t speak in tongues?”* (No!)
- *Or, “If people start speaking in tongues, will we lose the biblical order that we enjoy here at this church?”* (No!)
- *“Will this still be a place where I can invite visitors?”* (Yes!)

15. Pastor Charles Self said that 780,000,000 Christians worldwide speak in tongues.

- This isn't some new thing that has caught the church by surprise; it's standard biblical order and has been around since the early church.
- It's my (David Sell) belief that when this segment of scripture that we're looking at today has finally become part of the operational policy of this church, VCC will begin to be known as a true New Testament church that does things right and where the Holy Spirit is free to move.

16. Fears are to be faced and logically analyzed, and if we will do that, we will cross over into the promised land of God's blessing.

- Ps. 34:4 says, "*I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*"
- It may be that the first step of your spiritual pursuit toward the baptism with the Spirit is to begin reevaluating the position you have held toward this.

17. A second reason why people often don't pursue the baptism with the Spirit is because they claim that it just isn't their gift.

- They often quote 1 Cor. 12:10 which says, "*... to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues*" (1 Cor. 12:7-10).
- Notice that "to another" means that not everybody receives the gift of speaking in different kinds of tongues.
- So how can this be if the baptism with the Spirit, accompanied by speaking in tongues, is supposed to be given to all? It sounds like a contradiction.

18. The answer lies in the fact that there are three different manifestations of tongues in the Bible:

- **The first level of the manifestation of tongues is the general prayer language that is given to everybody.** Paul spoke a lot about this in the early verses of 1 Cor. 14:

1Cor. 14:2 *“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries”* (1 Cor. 14:2).

1Cor. 14:4 *“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...”* (1 Cor. 14:4).

1Cor. 14:5 *“I wish you all spoke with tongues...”* (1 Cor. 14:5).

1Cor. 14:14 *“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful”* (1 Cor. 14:14).

1Cor. 14:15 *“What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding”* (1 Cor. 14:15).

- The type of tongue Paul is speaking of in these verses is the general gift of tongues that is promised to all believers—just like salvation is a gift given to all believers.
- I call this “little t” or “lower case t.”

19. The second level of manifestation of tongues, spoken of in the later half of 1 Cor. 14, is the spiritual gift of tongues which is not given to every believer.

- I call this “Big T” or “Capital T.”
- It comes in two different expressions—tongues and interpretation, and tongues which are actual known languages.

20. This is a prophetic experience; someone in the church speaks out in tongues for all to hear; it is then usually followed by someone else giving a prophetic interpretation.

- This expression of tongues is a spiritual gift given only to some—not everybody.

21. The second expression of tongues at the Capital T spiritual gift level is also not given to everyone.

- **The second expression of tongues at the spiritual gift level is when we speak in an actual known language which is unknown to us.**

22. This, of course, is what happened on the Day of Pentecost.

- There were approximately 16 languages represented in the crowd on that day, and when the 120 came out into the courtyard speaking in tongues, they were actually preaching the Gospel in those 16 languages represented.
- This is what Paul meant when he said in 1 Cor. 14:22 that tongues were a sign to the unbeliever.
- This is the only time this is mentioned in the book of Acts.

23. To make this simple, tongues fall into 3 categories:

- Capital T tongues refer to the spiritual gift of tongues that is given only to some—tongues and interpretation and speaking in known foreign languages.
- Lower case “t” is the tongue that is given to all believers as a result of being baptized with the Spirit.

Tongues as heavenly prayer language	Promised to all (Acts 2:38-39)	Lower case “t”
Spiritual Gift of Tongues with Interpretation	Promised to some (1 Cor. 12:10)	Upper case “T”
Spiritual Gift of Tongues of a known language	Promised to some (1 Cor. 12:10)	Upper case “T”

- On the Day of Pentecost Big T and little t happened at the same time because they were both being introduced into the church age simultaneously.

24. “What is the evidence that the gift of the baptism with the Spirit has been received?”

- When a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit there are numerous evidences that can occur.
- The most important evidence is that they have received a fresh new measure of the Holy Spirit, which becomes evident in many ways—primarily how one lives.
- Another possible evidence is that the person can become so overwhelmed by the Spirit that they can appear a bit tipsy.

- You remember how the apostles on the Day of Pentecost were accused of being drunk.

25. The main question which people often ask is whether a person must speak in tongues after being baptized with the Spirit.

- In all five of the recorded instances in the Book of Acts where people were baptized with the Spirit, there was evidence, either direct or indirect, of people speaking in other tongues.

Scriptural Occurrence	Evidence of Tongues	Further Explanation
Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4)	<u>Acts 2:4</u> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.	This first occurrence was Big T and little t happening simultaneously.
When Phillip brought the Gospel to Samaria (Acts 8)	Acts 8:14-19. Simon saw something that made him want to offer money to have the same ability.	The baptism with the Spirit is described in Acts 2:33 as something “seen and heard.”
Saul of Tarsus received the Spirit (Acts 9:17).	Acts 14:18: Paul speaks in tongues more than you all.	
The Spirit fell upon the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48)	Acts 10:46: The Gentiles spoke in tongues.	
Acts 19:1-6	Acts 19:6: they spoke in tongues and prophesied	

26. The baptism with the Spirit is a personal pursuit which has a starting point and an ending point.

- For some the starting point is simply making the decision to address their apprehensions on this subject and perhaps reevaluate their position on the issue.

27. Some might speak in tongues on their first attempt; or it might happen later in another setting, or while alone at home.

- But it’s my (David Sell) belief that when your pursuit has reached the end of the biblical journey, you will have experienced the complete promise of the baptism with the Spirit and become fluent in a new heavenly prayer language.

28. “What is the advantage of having this gift?”

- First, speaking in tongues allows us to pray the perfect prayer. 1 Cor. 14:2 says, **“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God.”**
- When we speak in tongues we build ourselves up spiritually.
- 1 Cor. 14:4 says, **“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.”**
- Paul said in 1 Cor. 14:18, **“I thank God I speak in tongues more than you all.”**

29. The most significant advantage of being baptized with the Spirit, is the inner sense that we have received all that God wants us to give us.

- If God wants to give us something, who are we to say, **“No thank you, God.”**
- Especially when 1 Cor. 14:5 says, **“I wish you all spoke with tongues”** (1 Cor. 14:5).

30. “How do I receive the baptism with the Spirit?”

- Three simple steps:
- The first is that we enter into a time of worship. Worship is what brings the manifestation of the presence of God.
- Ps. 22:3 says, **“But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.”**
- Israel is another name for the church; Gal. 6:16 refers to the church as the “Israel of God.”

31. When Israel, or the church, offers up a sound of praise, Ps. 22:3 promises that God will enthrone Himself upon those praises.

- When we worship God, we also create a throne for God to come and sit upon.
- Then when God sits upon that throne, He is suddenly manifest in our midst; it’s then that He’s best positioned to pour out the baptism of His Spirit upon His people.

- So the **first thing** we do when preparing to receive the baptism with the Spirit is to enter into a time of worship; this will result in God's manifest presence.

32. The second thing we do is to ask our Heavenly Father to baptize us with the Holy Spirit.

- Lk. 11:13 says, "***How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!***"
- We are to ask Jesus to baptize us with the Spirit.

33. When we've reached this particular point in our journey to receive the baptism with the Spirit we might only receive one, two, or just a handful of words, but the more we exercise our new language, the more fluent we become.

- Sometimes it all starts by a single word coming to our mind, and so we begin by speaking out that single word.
- Going back to Acts 2:4 it says, "***...they began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance***" (Acts 2:4). The Holy Spirit gives the utterance; it is impossible to fake speaking in tongues.



God's
empowering presence

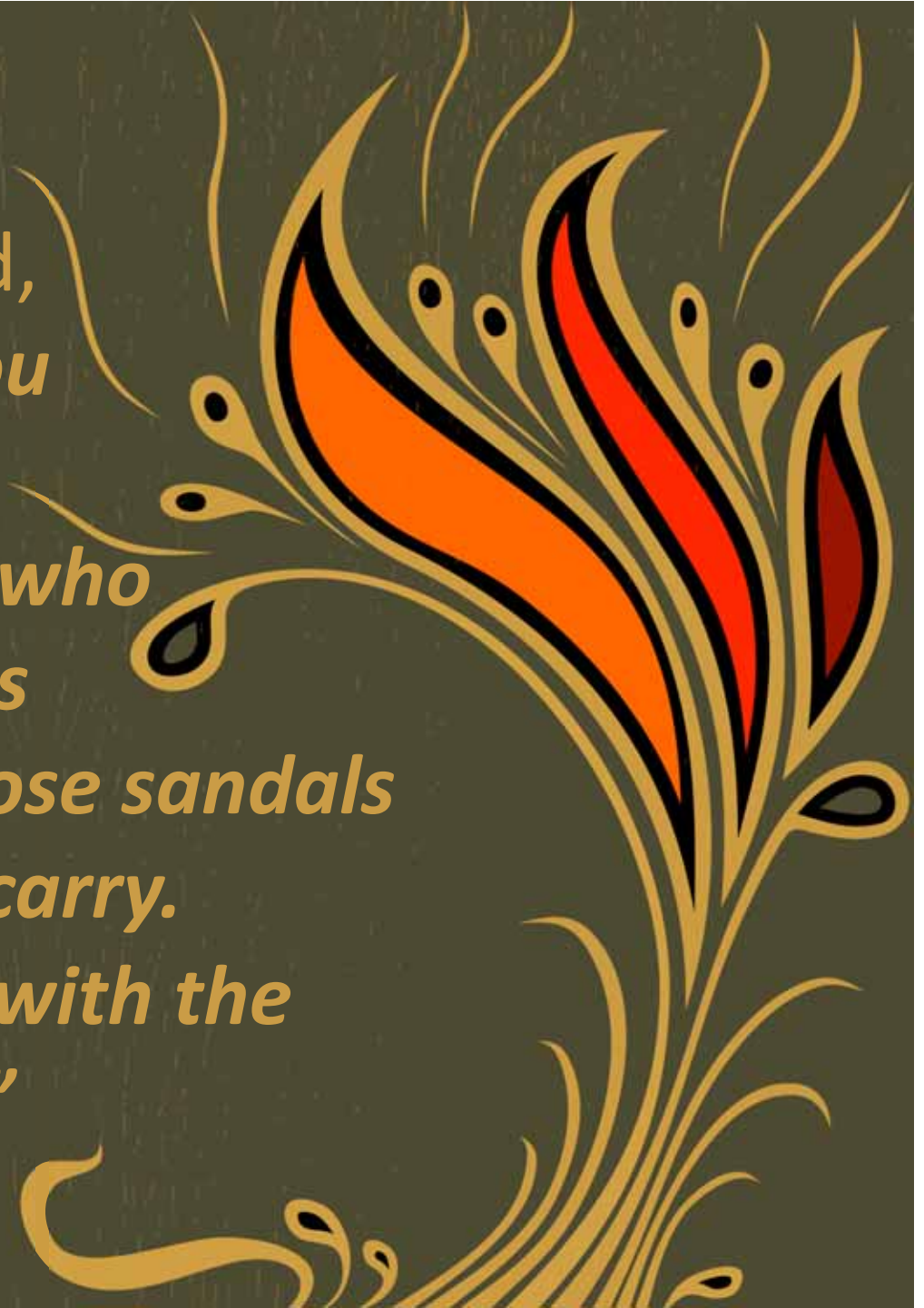
**THE BAPTISM WITH THE SPIRIT and
SPEAKING IN TONGUES**

By Pastor David Sell

What is
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In Matthew 3:11,
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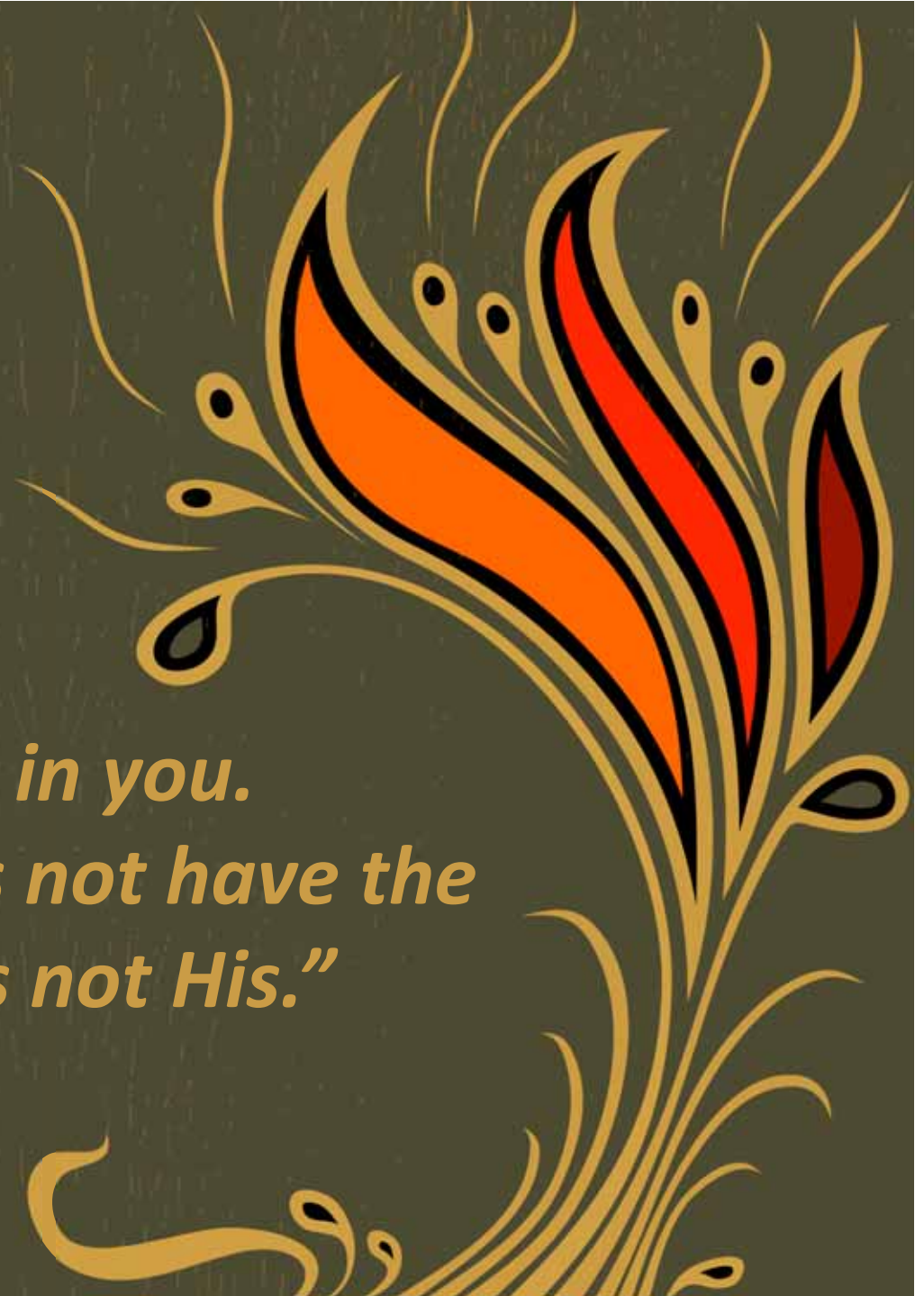
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The cornerstone scripture describing this experience is Acts 2:4, which says, ***“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”***



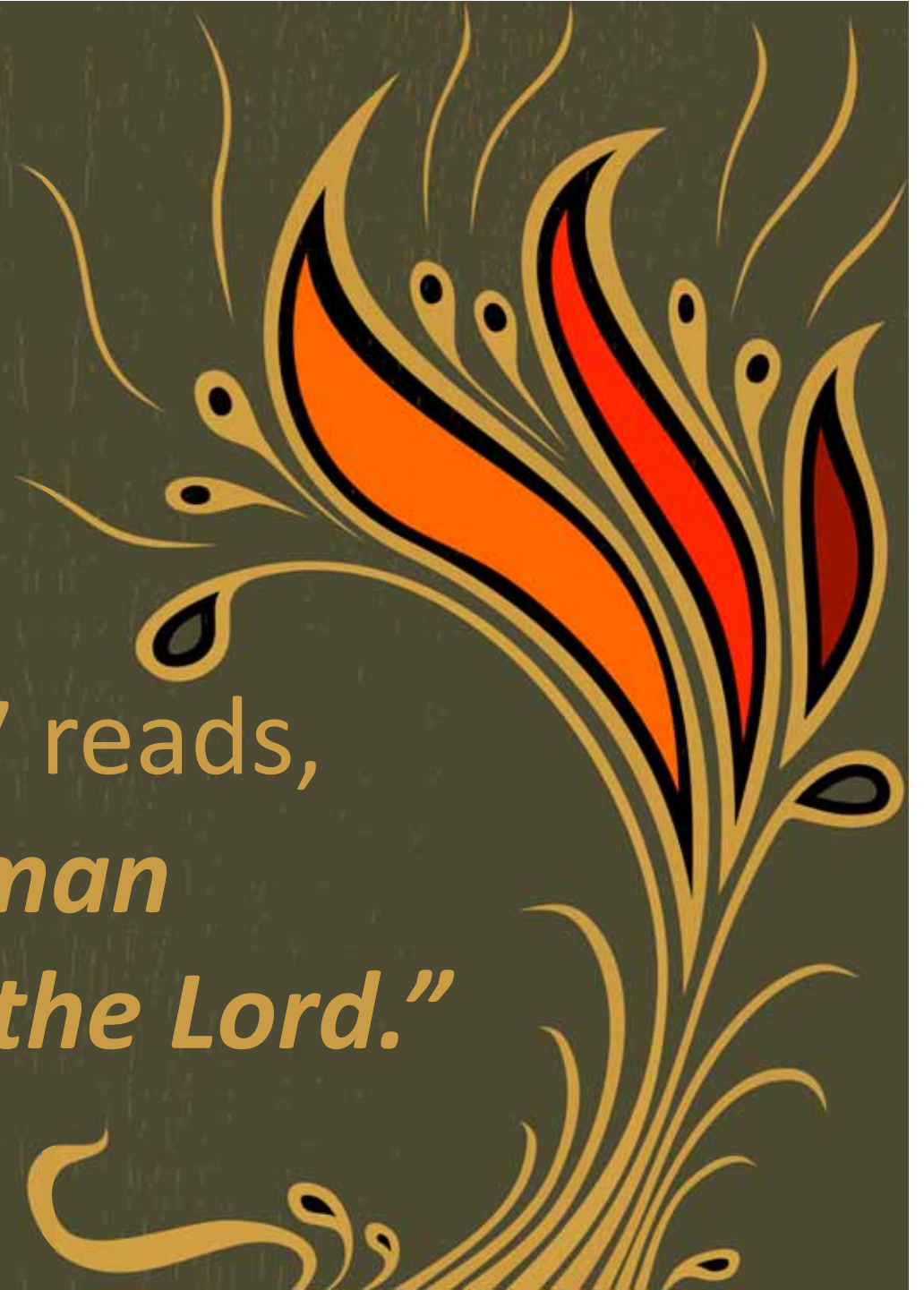
Romans 8:9 says,
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Now if anyone does not have the
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Proverbs 20:27 reads,
***“The spirit of man
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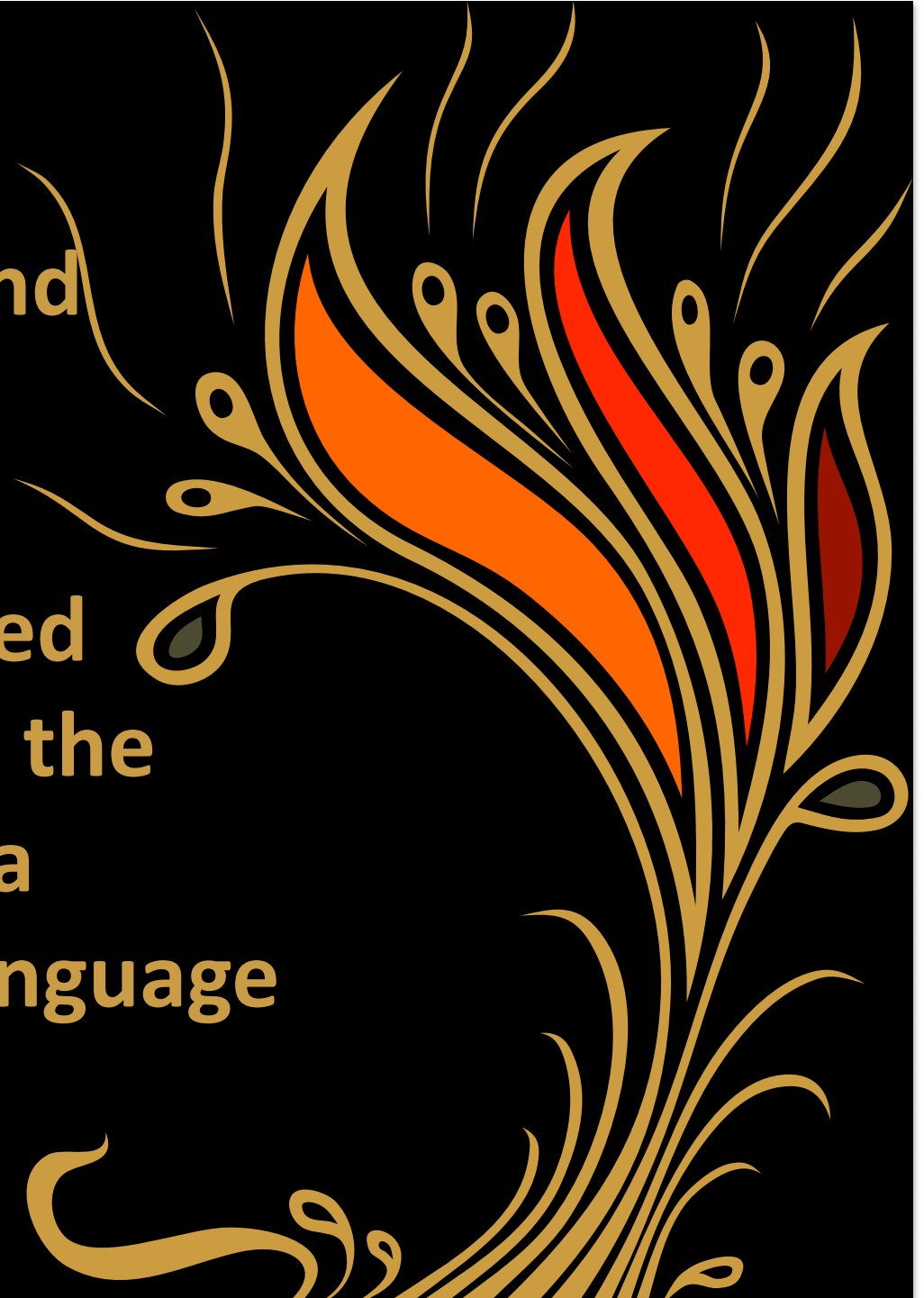
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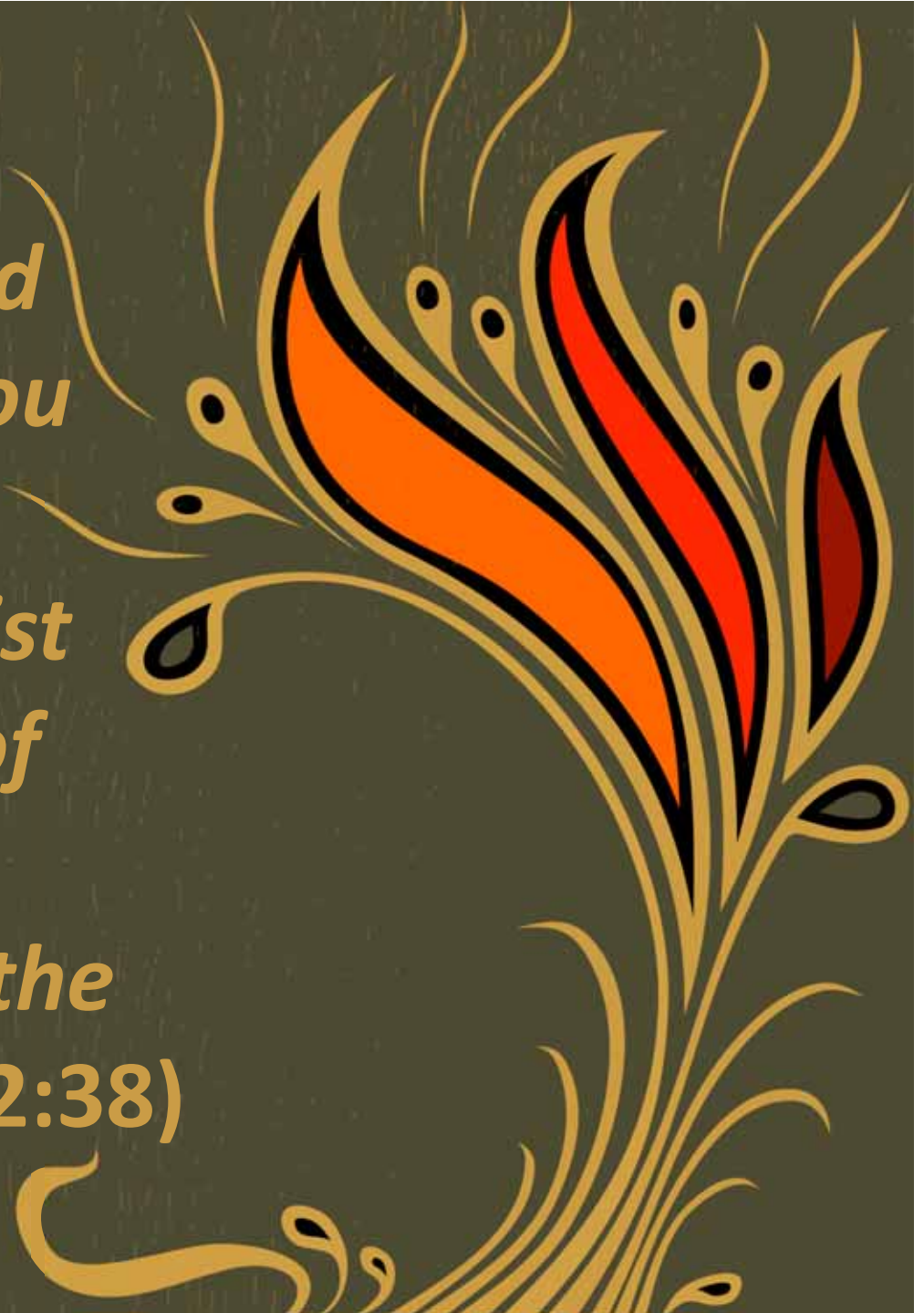
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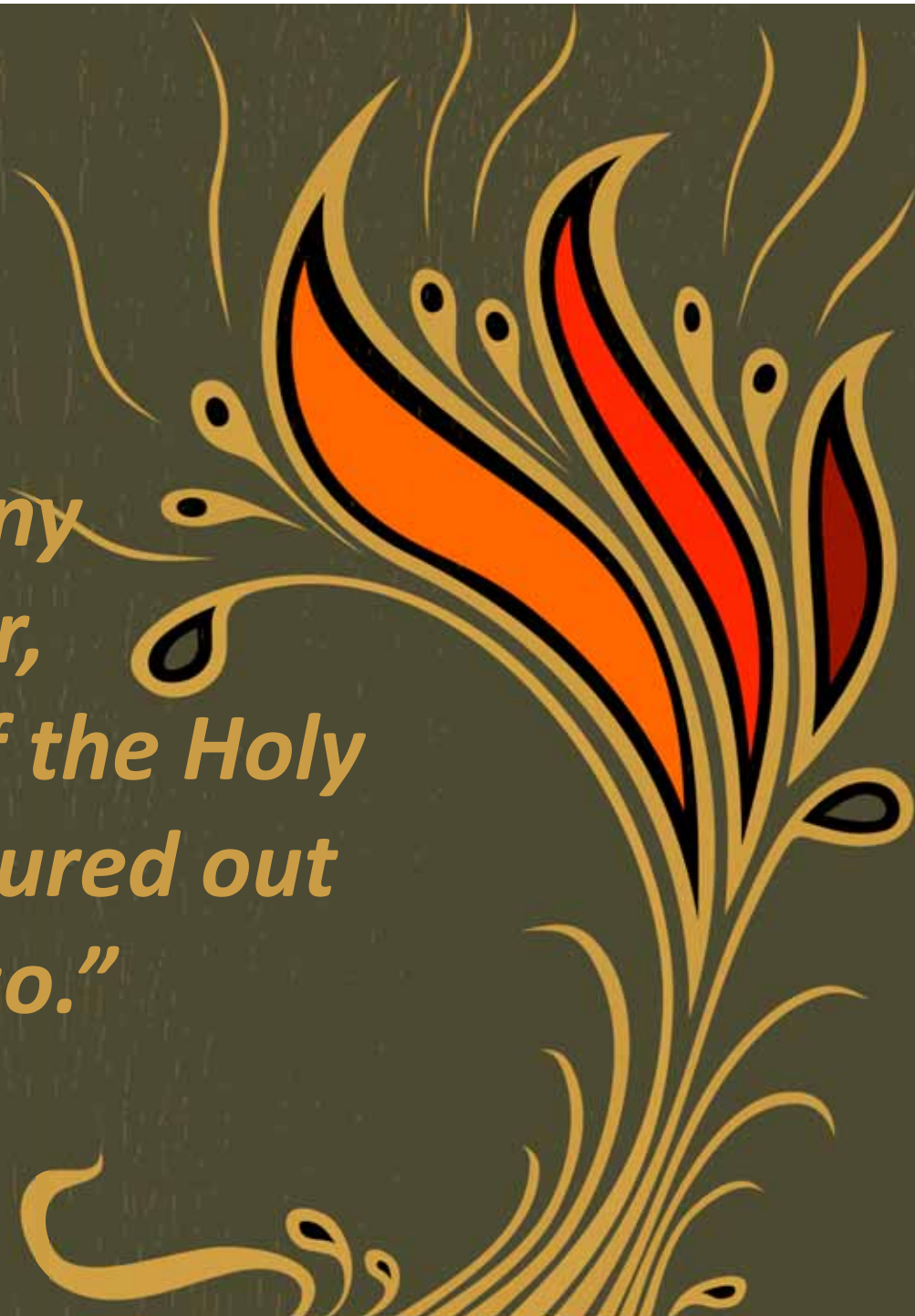
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Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)



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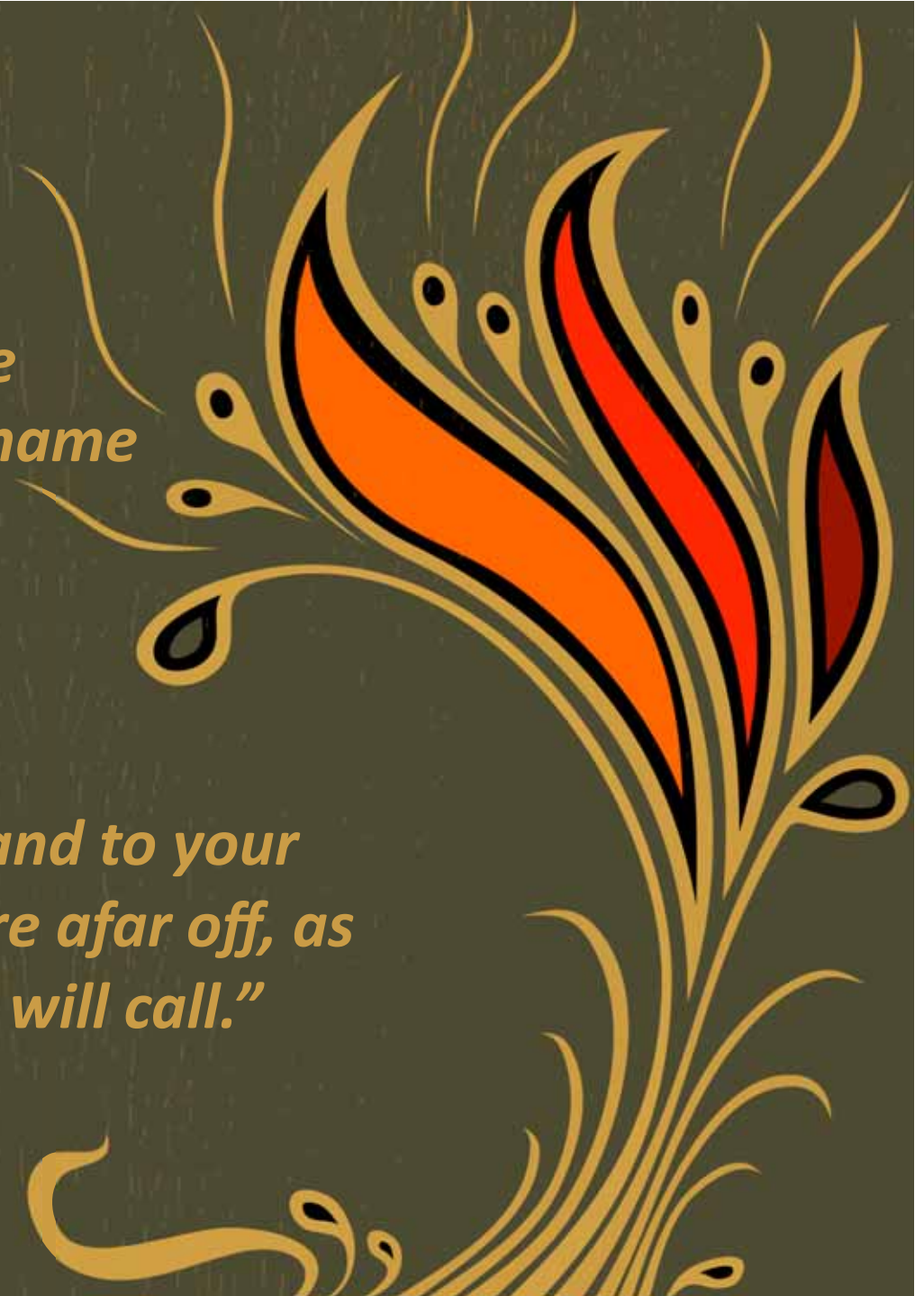
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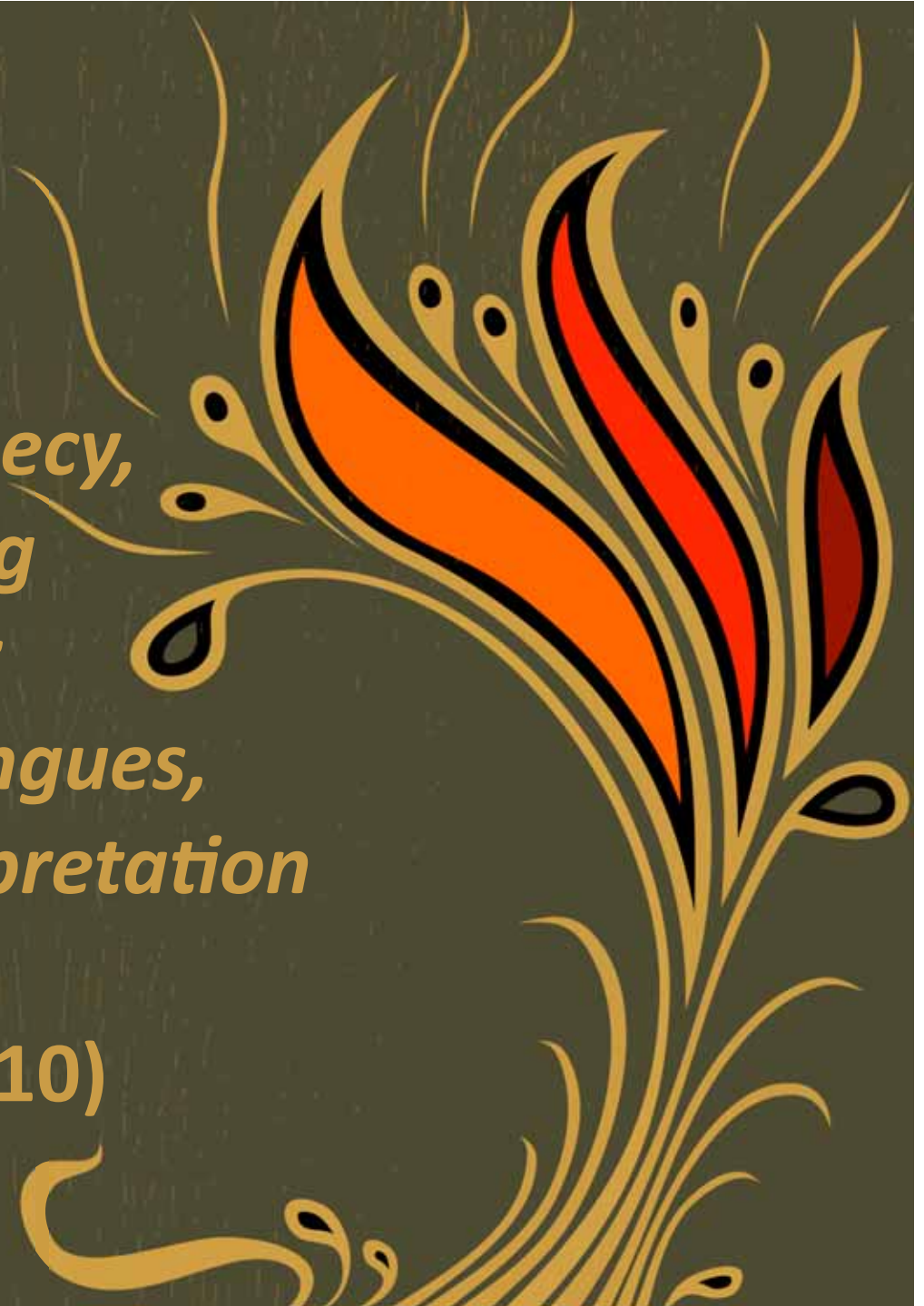


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*“... to another prophecy,
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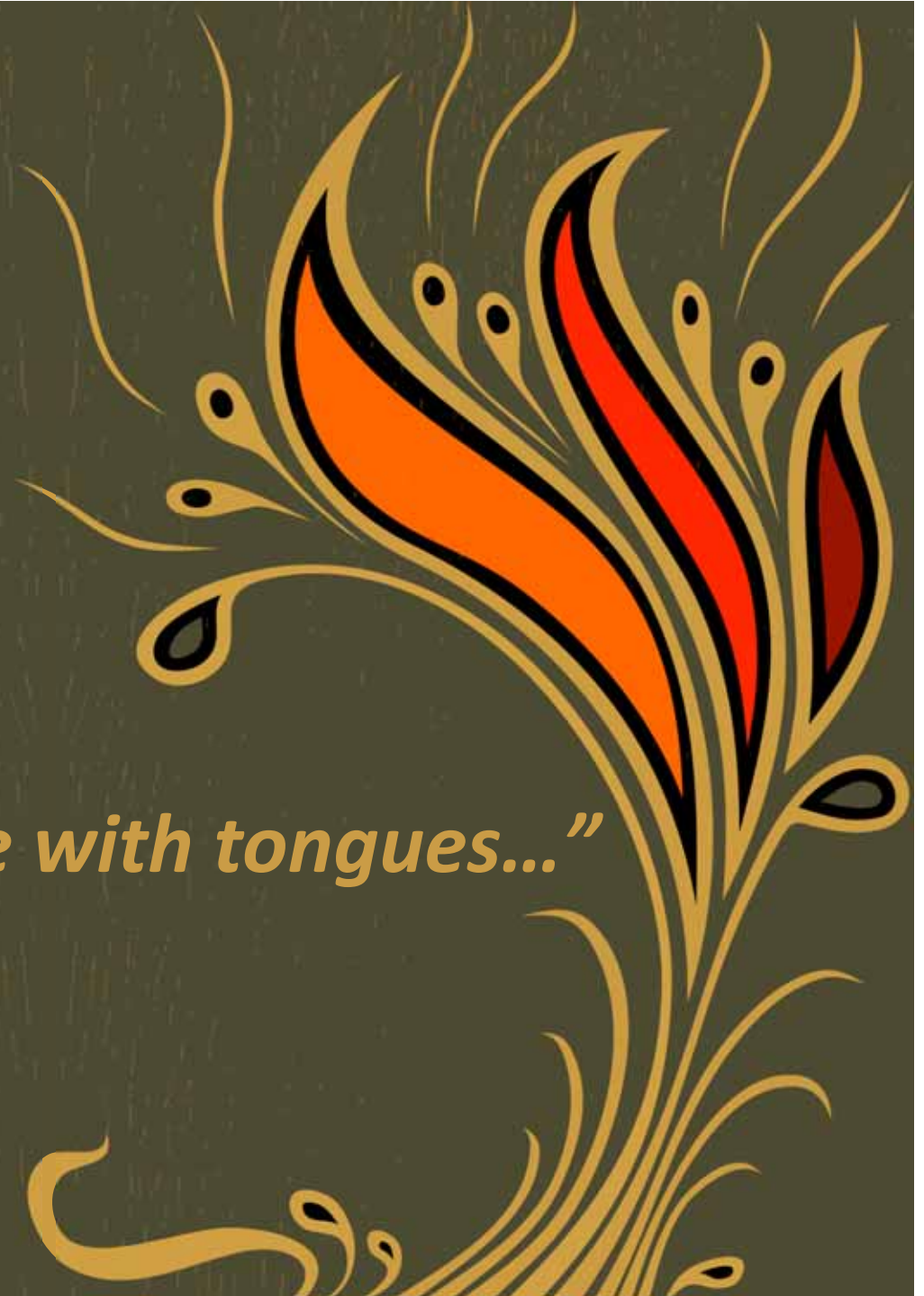
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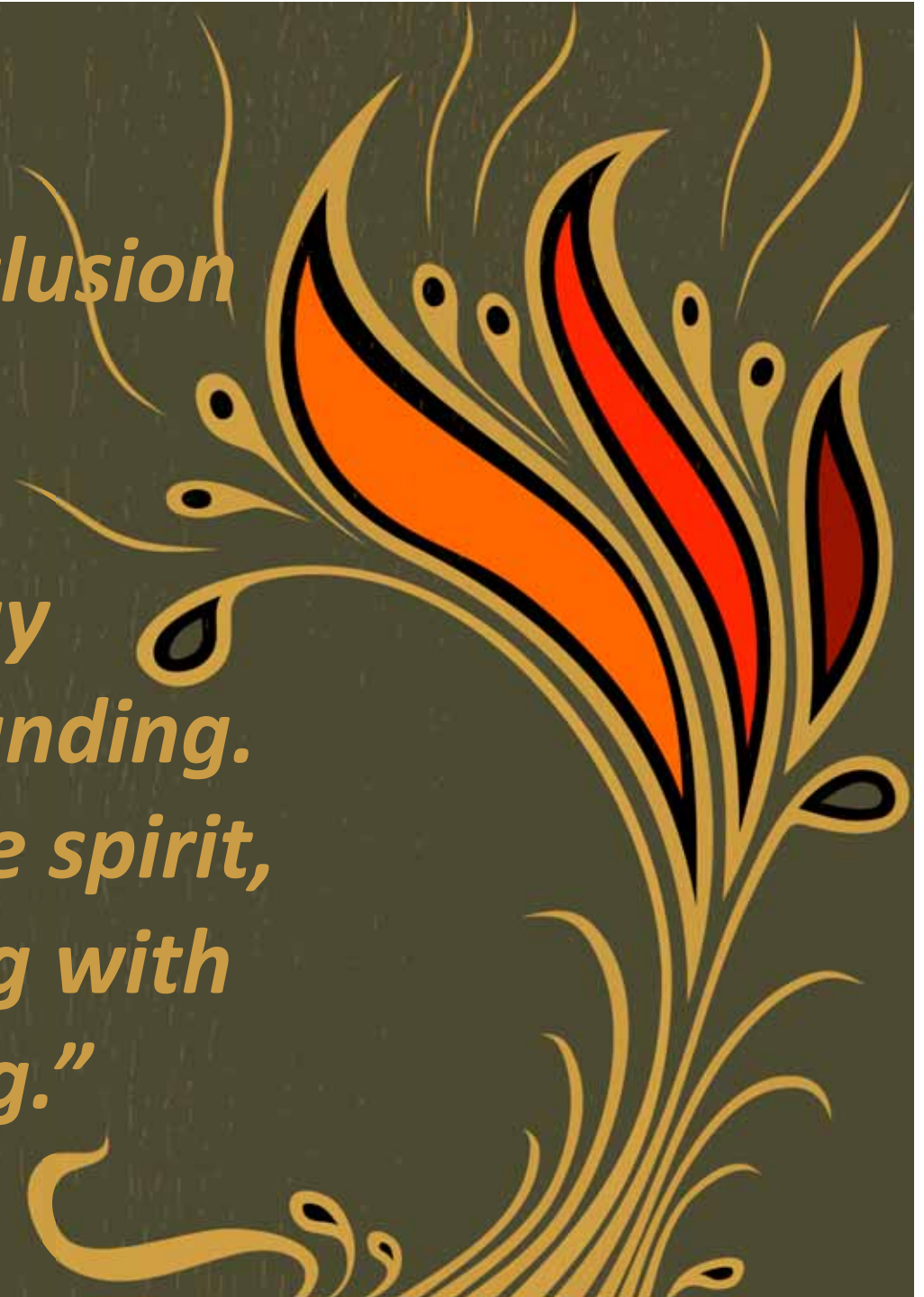
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“What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”
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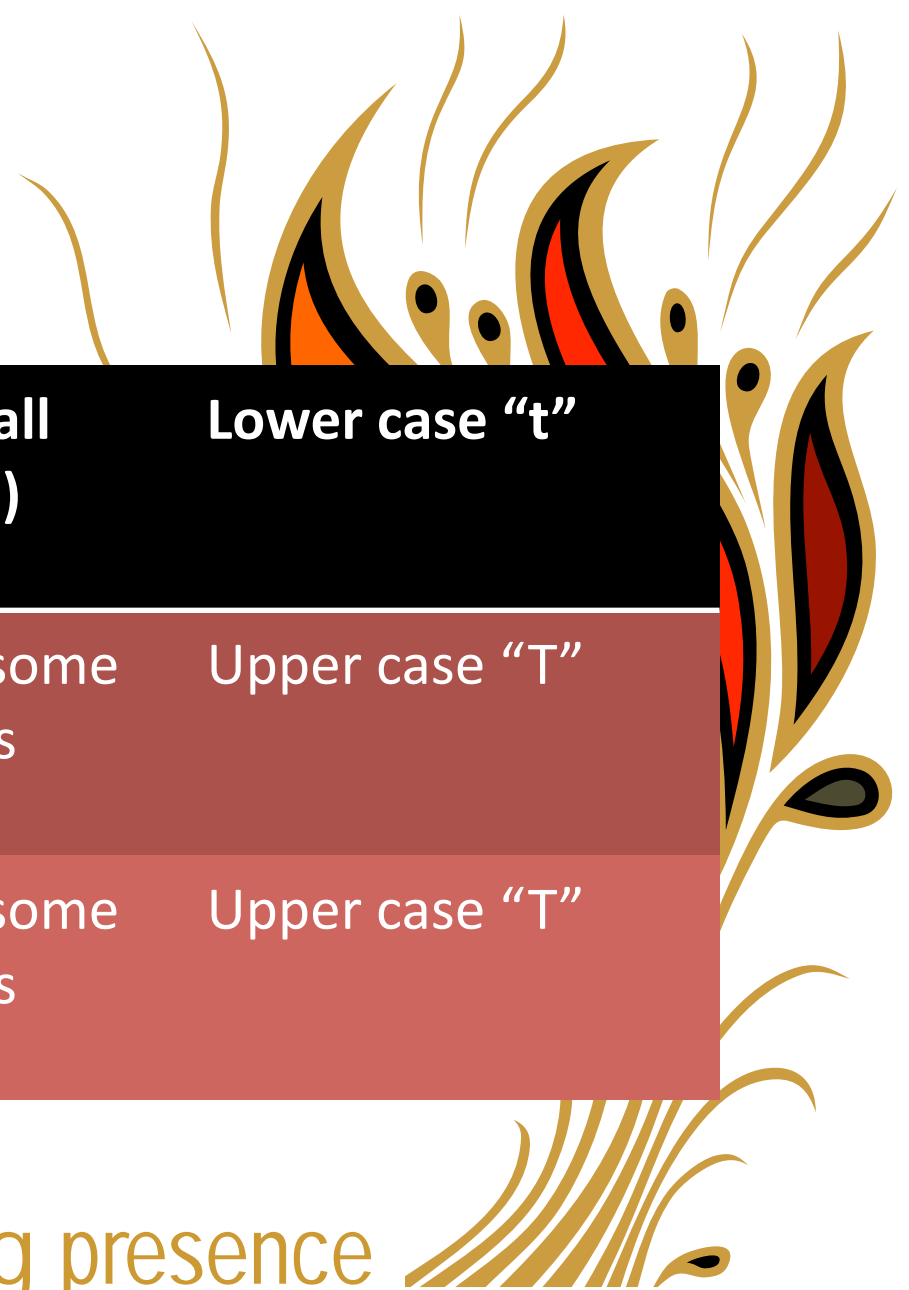


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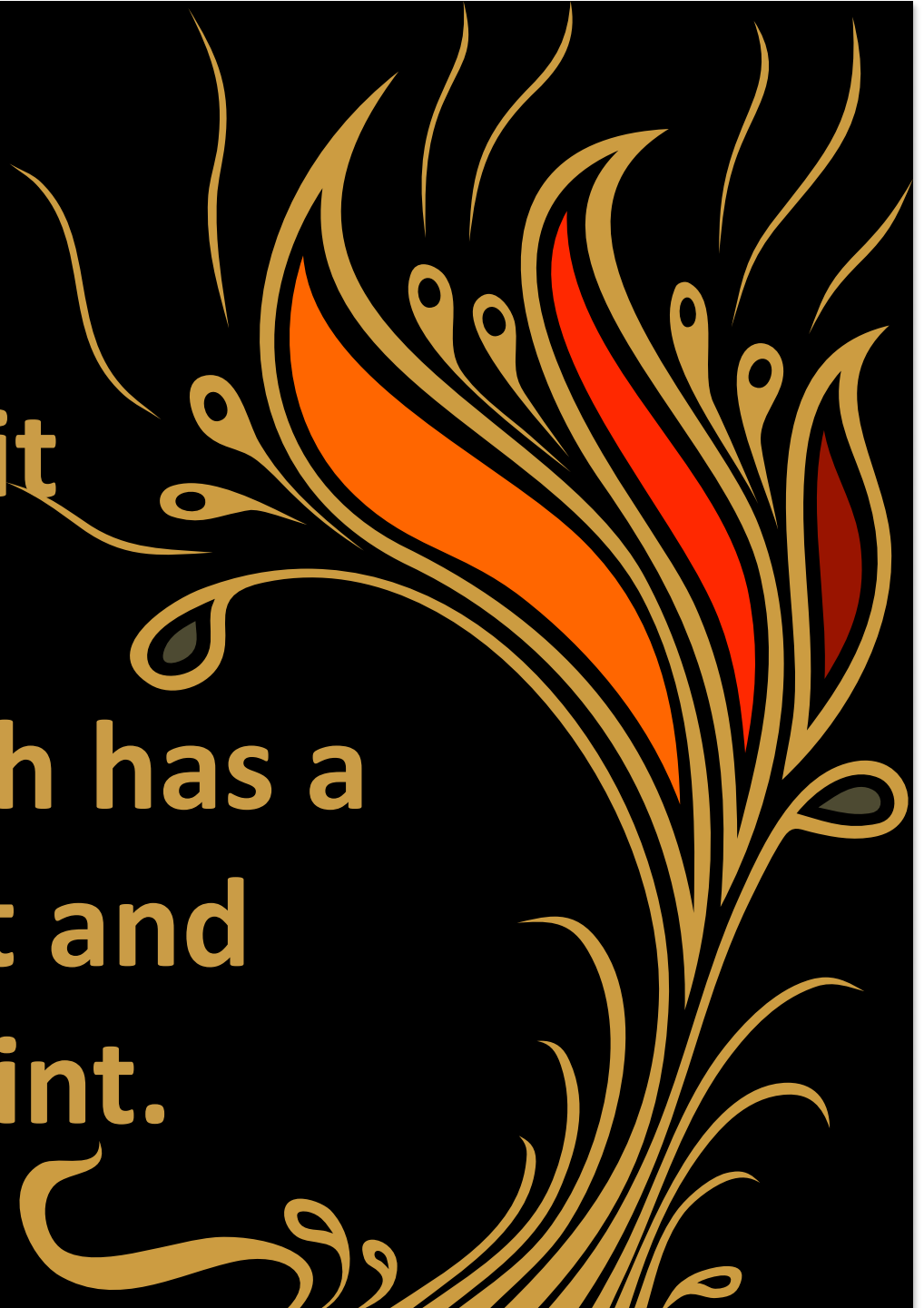
God's empowering presence

ALWAYS PURSUING, NEVER PRESUMING

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